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# Economic and Social Council

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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
**Forty-sixth session**
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Agenda item 8
**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session**

## Draft report

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**Addendum**

## Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

*(Item 3 (b) and (c))*

## Programme 14
## Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 11th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

**Discussion**

3. Appreciation was expressed for the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) so as to better respond to Africa's emerging challenges and the consequential revisions that had been made to programme 14. Support was further expressed for the two pillars of promoting regional integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities and meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges outlined in paragraph 14.7 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 for programme 14. The view was also expressed that in view of the consistent call of the CPC on programme managers to review their programmes, the 2008-2009 biennial programme plan for programme 14 was a good example of the usefulness of such an exercise.

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4. It was generally noted that the 2008-2009 strategic framework for programme 14 has successfully emphasized the assistance the Commission would continue to provide to African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that will lead to sustainable economic growth, social development and poverty reduction.

5. The Committee welcomed the progress made by ECA to align the overall objective of its programme and various subprogrammes with the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and in the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. While encouraging ECA, the view was also expressed that the priorities of the New Partnership be given greater emphasis in the programme.

6. Support was also expressed for the focus on poverty reduction strategies and efforts to integrate the targets of the Millennium Declaration into national development programmes under the leadership of national Governments.

7. The efforts of ECA to strengthen partnerships with the African Union and African Development Bank through strengthened collaboration and the revived joint secretariat to promote joint programming of activities was commended.

8. Support was expressed for the important role performed by the subregional offices of ECA in operationalizing the analytical and normative work of the Commission at the subregional and national levels. Particularly, the view was expressed that the role of subregional offices in the work of ECA should be further strengthened, as the successful attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the New Partnership depend on the manner in which the various subregional organizations are able to implement the programmes on the subregional and national levels. The Committee noted that the comprehensive plan of action to strengthen the regional offices of ECA was being finalized for its submission to the General Assembly.

9. Support was expressed for the enhancement of macroeconomic and sectoral policy analysis, international trade and finance under subprogramme 1. A query was raised on the ECA strategy to combat the effects of globalization.

10. The view was expressed that additional indicators of achievement could be included under subprogramme 2, to measure ECA's contribution to increases in the number of agriculture activities, strategies for addressing natural resources degradation or measuring poverty reduction growth in the countries of the region. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 2 on agricultural transformation and promotion of diversification, while clarification was sought on whether the critical issue of food security in Africa should be highlighted in the subprogramme.

11. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 3, on the improvement of good governance practices to ensure participation in the development and governance processes, and consolidation of the foundations for sustainable development. The view was expressed that great importance was attached to the African Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership, and the efforts of the Commission in its support was commended. A view was expressed that an indicator of achievement should be formulated to report on the increase in training and

technical assistance rendered under the subprogramme to Member States of the region.

12. Support was expressed for the amendments to subprogramme 4 as they addressed some comments made at the forty-fourth session of the CPC. The view was expressed that great importance was attached to the efforts to address the digital divide and activities by the Commission in support of the African Information Society, the implementation of the Tunis Commitment and Agenda and the emphasis on science and technology policies. The view was expressed that a useful aspect of the strategy of subprogramme 4 would be incorporation of partner agencies as well as information on cooperation at the regional and global levels. A further view was expressed that the communication strategy of ECA should be included under subprogramme 4. The view was also expressed that an indicator of achievement should be formulated to report on the number of countries that have gained capacity for the application of information and communication technologies in key social sectors such as health and poverty reduction.

13. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed on the development of exports and infrastructure under subprogramme 5. A query was raised on the means available to ECA to measure sustainable development and sustained economic growth.

14. Support was expressed for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in national development policies and programmes, under subprogramme 6. The view was expressed that the empowerment of women and the improvement of their living conditions were critical for Africa's success. The views were expressed that new indicators of achievement could be included under subprogramme 6 to report on topics such as the number of women in political processes, the illiteracy among young girls or improvement in their standard of living.

15. Support was expressed for the integration efforts at the subregional level under subprogramme 7, while a view was expressed that it was not consistent with the strategy proposed. The view was expressed that the success of the New Partnership is linked to successful integration of the regional economic communities, and the extent to which the regional economic communities were able to translate the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership into concrete projects at the country level.

16. The inclusion of two new subprogrammes in programme 14; subprogrammes 9, Statistics, and 10, Social development, that would be overseen by the African Centre for Statistics and the newly established African Centre for Gender and Social Development, respectively, was commended. The view was expressed that the establishment of subprogramme 9, Statistics, was quite important as it was useful to monitor and evaluate economic management in order to take corrective measures, particularly since most African countries were not on target in meeting the internationally agreed development goals.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed revisions to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/125).**

18. **The Committee commended ECA for reviewing programme 14 following the call of CPC for programme management to review their programmes. The Committee welcomed the assistance the Commission would continue to provide to African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that would lead to sustained economic development and poverty eradication in alignment with the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and other international agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.**

19. **The Committee stressed the importance of integrating a communication dimension into the different subprogrammes of ECA, with a view to increasing the awareness and support of all sectors of society, including the private sector and civil society, with regard to Africa's development challenges. In that respect, the Committee requested ECA to provide leadership and assistance to its member States, so as to improve national capacity to fashion and implement effective communication strategies.**

20. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**